

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

This Response is accompanied by a further Substitute Specification (without the claims) that includes amendments to the last previously filed substitute specification as set forth below (the paragraph numbers in brackets refer to those in the attached further Substitute Specification). Please substitute this attached specification for the prior specification filed on December 8, 2006. The attached substitute specification includes no new matter and amends the prior specification filed on December 8, 2006, as follows:

1. Paragraph numbers have been added.
2. Headings of the sections have been changed to read as follows to comply more closely with the headings specified in 37 CFR 1.77:
 - Before the title: TITLE OF THE INVENTION;
 - After the title: BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION;
 - Between the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION heading and before paragraph [0001]: 1) Field of the Invention;
 - Between paragraphs [0001] and [0002]: 2) Description of Related Art;
 - Between paragraphs [0007] and [0008]: SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION;
 - Between paragraphs [0011] and [0012]: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS; and,
 - Between paragraphs [0012] and [0013]: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

3. The paragraphs of the prior substitute specification have been amended as follows wherein the paragraph numbers refer to those in the attached substitute specification:

[0001] The present invention relates to seats, both those intended to be static, such as chairs, armchairs or stools,[[.]] and those to be fitted to vehicles. It

concerns, more particularly, both an ergonomic seating module and a chair fitted with said module.

[0009] More specifically, the invention concerns a seating module, which includes:

- a structural framework provided with a pommel element,
- a frame provided with a cantle element, said structural framework and said frame ~~[[•]]~~ having planar symmetry,
- means for connecting the structural framework to the frame, including a joint which allows the frame to tilt, In relation to the structural framework, about an axis perpendicular to the plane of symmetry, and
- a seat connecting the frame to the pommel element and formed of an elastic membrane whose function is to define a rest position of the frame in relation to the structural framework and to return it to this position when a user tilts it in one direction or another.

[0010] The seating module according to the invention further includes the following main features:

- in the rest position, the frame is inclined forwards by an angle of approximately 10° in relation to the ground;
- the structural framework has, in plane, a T-shape, the vertical bar of which, arranged in the plane of symmetry, extends ~~forwards~~ forward and is bent ~~upwards~~ upward to end in the pommel element;
- the ends of the horizontal bars of the T are raised to form the joint with the structural framework;
- the frame is a fork which, in plane, has a U-shape with an axis disposed in the plane of symmetry, the cross bar of which is raised and forms the cantle element and the two vertical bars of which

extend ~~forwards~~ forward, substantially as far as the pommel element, which is underneath it;

- the membrane forms a support surface that is convex along a line perpendicular to the plane of symmetry and concave along a line inscribed in this plane;
- the membrane is fixed between the pommel element and the cantle element, between the two teeth of the fork, and between the ends of the teeth and the pommel element;
- the membrane is covered by a padding member forming a cushion and includes a longitudinal groove intended to form a space for receiving the user's coccyx.

[0011] The present invention also concerns a chair provided with a support in contact with the ground and a seating module as defined hereinbefore, characterized in that the support includes an arm extending ~~forwards~~ forward and ~~upwards~~ upward and carrying a cross bar forming a support for the user's knees and padded to form a cushion.

[0013] The seating module - or seat - according to the invention essentially includes a structural framework 10, a fork-shaped frame 12, a hinge 14 connecting, in an a jointed manner, structural framework 10 and fork 12, and an elastic membrane 16, visible only in Figures 3 and 4. The seat has a symmetrical structure with reference to a vertical plane passing through lines II-II of Figures 1 and 3.

[0014] More specifically, structural framework 10, in plane, has a T-shape the vertical bar 18 of which, placed in axis II-II, extends ~~forwards~~ forward and is bent ~~upwards~~ upward to end in a pommel element 20. The ends 22a of arms 22 of the T, perpendicular to the axis, are raised and pierced with a hole that is not visible in the drawing. Structural framework 10 has a central portion 24 provided with holes 24a allowing the seat to be fixed onto a support, as will be explained hereinafter.

[0015] In plane, fork 12 has a U-shape of axis II-II. Its cross bar 26, which is slightly raised and bent, acts as a cantle element and its two teeth 28 extend ~~forwards~~ forward substantially as far as pommel element 20, a few centimeters underneath it.

[0021] Because of the shape of fork 12 and the position of pommel element 20, membrane 16 has a horse-saddle shape, with a concavity between cantle element 26 and pommel element 20 and a convexity between the two teeth 28. Owing to these features, the function of membrane 16 is to:

- define the rest position of fork 12 in relation to structural framework 10, the position taken when no-one is sitting on the seat, and
- return fork 12 to this rest position when the person who has tilted the seat ~~forwards~~ forward or ~~backwards~~ backward leaves it.